

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 JUSE-00 /077 W

----- 126277

R 151741Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1863

UNCLAS BONN 15534

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, GW, US

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED AND THE FRG

REF: BONN 15353

1. CONTINUING CONTROVERSY OVER FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MOTIVATION IN REOPENING ISSUE OF POSSIBLE LOCKHEED ILLICIT PAYMENTS TO GERMAN OFFICIALS REACHED NEW HIGHPOINT SEPTEMBER 15 WITH PRESS CONFERENCE BY CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT. PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ON THIS MATTER HAVE BEEN THROUGH PRESS SPOKESMAN BOELLING OR OTHER RELATIVELY LOW RANKING FIGURES. CHANCELLOR SPOKE TO CHARGE IN CSU ORGAN BAYERN-KURIER THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS FOLLOWING A POLICY OF OBSTRUCTION IN THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR.

2. UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE TEXT OF SCHMIDT'S REMARKS FOLLOWS:
THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT INFORMED US WHETHER IN THESE DOCUMENTS THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT WOULD PERMIT US TO CONCLUDE WHETHER IN CIVIL LAW, CRIMINAL LAW, TAX LAW, OR DISCIPLINARY LAW PROCEEDINGS SHOULD BE INITIATED BY US. BUT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TOLD US THAT THEY WOULD MAKE THE MATERIALS AVAILABLE ONLY ON THE BASIS OF A FORMAL AGREEMENT, AND UNDER AMERICAN LAW THESE
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DOCUMENTS COULD ONLY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SUCH OFFICES

AS ARE COMPETENT FOR CRIMINAL OR DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS. ON THE GERMAN SIDE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST ON FACTUAL AS WELL AS LEGAL GROUNDS IN MAKING THE MATERIALS AVAILABLE ALSO IF POSSIBLE TO THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG, IF THE PARLIAMENT SHOULD SO REQUEST IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS POLITICAL COMPETENCE. I CAN ENVISAGE IN THAT REGARD AN INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES INDEPENDENT OF THE LIMITATIONS OF CRIMINAL LAW. THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT WHETHER IT IS PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE MATERIALS FOR SUCH A PURPOSE HAS BEEN CONDUCTED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, AND, IF I UNDERSTAND CORRECTLY, WILL BE RENEWED NEXT WEEK BY THE STATE SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. I CAN AT THIS TIME NOT FORESEE WHETHER MR. ERKEL WILL BRING MATTERS TO A CONCLUSION IN THIS ROUND OF TALKS. THE CHARGE IN THE BAYERN-KURIER TO WHICH YOU REFERRED, THAT WE ARE DELAYING THE MATTER, IS RIDICULOUS, ABSURD. WE DO NOT EVEN KNOW WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THE MATERIAL. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS CONTAINED. . . .
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, CORRUPTION, TEXT, POLITICAL LEADERS, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, ALLEGATIONS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN15534
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760349-0235
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760960/aaaabytg.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BONN 15353
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vandyklc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by vandyklc>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOCKHEED AND THE FRG
TAGS: MASS, GE, US, LOCKHEED
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006